



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,444	05/31/2001	Thomas W. Nickerson	OID06-37(2401)	8887
<div>58403 7590 12/17/2007</div> <div>BARRY W. CHAPIN, ESQ. CHAPIN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW, LLC WESTBOROUGH OFFICE PARK 1700 WEST PARK DRIVE WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581</div>				
			EXAMINER AVELLINO, JOSEPH E	
			ART UNIT 2143	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/17/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/871,444

Applicant(s)

NICKERSON, THOMAS W.

Examiner

Joseph E. Avellino

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 14, 32, 33 and 36-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 13, 14, 32, 33 and 36-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 13, 14, and 32-51 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. The amendments to the claims have been considered. The rejections under this heading with respect to claims 13, 14, 32, 33, 36-45 are withdrawn.

3. Claims 46-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are not statutory. The method claim provides a conditional limitation that does not necessarily occur (i.e. "if the determination..."). As such, the result of this embodiment of the claim is the mere determination, which lacks a tangible or useful result. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 13, 14, 32, 33, and 36-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lam (USPN 6,289,804) in view of Lambert et al. (US 2002/0038350) (hereinafter Lambert).

5. Referring to claim 13, Lam discloses a computer program product with a client with a local cache (e.g. abstract) which, in response to receiving client input for content

of a web page will determine if there is a cache hit, then determine if the content should be retrieved from the server (i.e. hit with an invalid respond) and transmit the request to a server (col. 2, lines 5-10). Lam does not disclose that the system will insert a unique identifier into the address. In analogous art, Lambert discloses another computer product for caching web pages which receives at a client input related to a request for content of a web page the request including an address for the web page (§ 228-231); inserting a unique identifier at the client into the address and transmitting the request to a server (§ 228-231). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Lam with Lambert in order to provide an efficient method of ensuring that the server request is directly from the server by inserting a unique identifier into the address in order to ensure that no stale copies are received by any other proxy servers which might have a stale copy of the data and would return that data instead of from the original content server, thereby guaranteeing that the returned data is a newly retrieved content object from the server.

6. Referring to claim 14, Lam-Lambert discloses the invention substantively as described in claim 13. Lam-Lambert do not explicitly disclose that the system determining whether the request is for a refresh of the current page or for a request for a previously displayed web page, however this feature is well known in the art to determine whether or not to serve a page from the cache or to retrieve a page from the server. By this rationale, "Official Notice" is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing for determining whether the request is a 'back' request or a

Art Unit: 2143

current page refresh is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Lam-Lambert to include determining whether the request is a back request or a refresh request in order to aid in the determination of whether to service the page locally, since if the request is a back request, the page would have already been seen by the cache and would normally not be stale yet, thereby reducing unnecessary requests to the server.

7. Claims 32 and 33 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

8. Referring to claim 36, Lambert discloses a URL to a content of a web page (¶ 230).

9. Referring to claim 37, Lambert discloses the address includes a query string, the unique identifier being appended to the address in the query string (i.e. a hyperlink is inherently a query string since once the user clicks upon the hyperlink, it requests the page from the server) (¶ 230).

10. Referring to claims 38 and 39, Lambert discloses the unique identifier includes a random number (i.e. the timestamp includes a `math.Random()` function as a seed into the timestamp) (¶ 230-231).

11. Referring to claim 40, Lambert discloses the unique identifier includes an alpha-numeric representation (i.e. the Office construes the term "alpha-numeric representation" as any character string which includes at least one letter or number", such as a timestamp) (¶¶ 230-231).

12. Claims 41-45 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

13. Referring to claim 46, Lambert discloses receiving a request for content, determining if it should be sent to the server (i.e. request the document), appending the unique identifier to the URL and sending out the request (¶¶ 230-231).

14. Claims 47-51 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments dated November 27, 2007 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

16. In the remarks, Applicant argues, in substance, that (1) Lam-Lambert does not disclose insertion of an identifier at a client. The Examiner disagrees. As clearly expressed in Applicant's response, Lam discloses that the cache can be located at a client (response: p. 8; Specification, abstract: "a...caching method for servers and clients"). Furthermore, Lambert clearly discloses that the insertion is done at the web

browser using JavaScript (Lambert: ¶ 229-230). This clearly demonstrates that the system of Lam-Lambert is conducted at the client device. By this rationale, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph E. Avellino/
Joseph E. Avellino, Examiner
December 11, 2007